

AUGUST 4, 2014 8:30 A.M.  
JONES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JONES COUNTY OFFICE COMPLEX – COMMISSIONERS' ROOM  
MINUTES

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Mike Haddock, Chairman  
Sondra Ipock-Riggs, Vice-Chairman  
Joseph Wiggins, Commissioner  
Zack Koonce, Commissioner  
Frank Emory, Commissioner

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Franky J. Howard, County Manager  
Melissa Moore-Freeman, Clerk

The Chairman called the meeting to order and Commissioner Zack Koonce gave the invocation. A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Joseph Wiggins, seconded by Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs, and unanimously carried **THAT** the agenda be **APPROVED** as presented.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Zack Koonce, seconded by Commissioner Joseph Wiggins, and unanimously carried **THAT** the minutes of July 21, 2014 be **APPROVED**.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

There was no public comment.

**1. VOTING DISTRICTS**

Daniel Johnson Willis presented a written request from the Jones County Improvement Association, Inc requesting the Board petition the legislation to change the at large election process in Jones County. Mr. Willis also asked the Board to please strongly consider his request. A copy of the letter is marked Exhibit A and is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

**2. CDBG HIGHWAY 17 OFFER TO PURCHASE**

Franky Howard presented the Board with an offer to purchase, from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, for a tract of land owned by Jones County and needed for the Highway 17 expansion. The offer is for less than tax value for the property. Commissioner Joseph Wiggins indicated the County should not accept this offer. Other commissioners agreed. Franky Howard advised the Board he would contact Telic Company, representing the North Carolina Department of Transportation and informed the agency, the County had rejected their first offer to purchase. Mr. Howard informed the Board, he would update them as new developments arose.

**3. FINAL APPROVAL TAX FORECLOSURE PROPERTY SALE**

Franky Howard informed the Board the tax foreclosure offer, received at the last meeting and approved, has been advertised for upset bids. The ten days have lapsed and there were no upset bids. Mr. Howard advised the Board the advertisements were published in the Kinston Free Press as well as the Jones Post. **MOTION** made by Commissioner

Joseph Wiggins, seconded by Commissioner Frank Emory and unanimously carried **THAT** the offer to purchase be **ACCEPTED** as presented.

#### **4. CBDG CATALYST BID PROPOSALS**

Franky Howard presented the bid proposals for the Catalyst project. Mr. Howard advised the Board it had been suggested the low bids be accepted. The bid information is as follows:

Asbestos Abatement:

Eastern Environmental, Inc.	2,295.00
Enviro Assessments East, Inc.	2,285.00

Housing Rehabilitation :

Holland Construction Company:	58,855.00
Eastern Environmental, Inc.	64,495.00

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Joseph Wiggins, seconded by Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs and unanimously carried **THAT** the low bids be **APPROVED** as presented:

Asbestos Abatement: Eastern Environmental , Inc	2,285.00
Housing Rehabilitation: Holland Construction Company	58,855.00

#### **5. APPOINTMENT-DSS BOARD**

Franky Howard explained Phyllis Faulkner had served just over a year on the DSS Board and completed the term held by another member whom resigned. Mrs. Faulkner's term has ended and she needs to be reappointed for a three year term. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Joseph Wiggins, seconded by Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs, and unanimously carried **THAT** Phyllis Faulkner be **REAPPOINTED** to the DSS Board for a term of three years to expire August 31, 2017. Mr. Howard requested Mrs. Faulkner as well as the Director of Social Services be notified of the reappointment.

#### **6. APPOINTMENT-HEALTH BOARD**

Franky Howard explained Danielle Koslowski's term for the Health Board was to expire in August 2014. Miss Koslowski serves as the pharmacist and has expressed her interest in serving an additional term. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Joseph Wiggins, seconded by Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs, and unanimously carried **THAT** Danielle Koslowski be **REAPPOINTED** to the Health Board for a term of three years to expire August 31, 2017. Mr. Howard requested Miss Koslowski as well as the Health Director be notified of the reappointment.

#### **7. ATTORNEY INVOICES**

Franky Howard presented the attorney invoices to the Board for review. There was no discussion. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs, seconded by Commissioner Joseph Wiggins, and unanimously carried **THAT** the attorney invoices be **APPROVED** as presented.

General Legal	4,612.84
Health Department	1,616.97
School Board	7,579.47
Tax Department	100.75
Sheriff	114.04
DSS Department	9,277.30
Employee vs. DSS	147.19
Employee vs. DSS	110.14

## **8. SCHOOL BOARD SETTLEMENT**

Mr. Jimmie Hicks advised the Board he felt it was best to go into Closed Session 143.318.11(a)(3) before accepting the final settlement agreement from the Jones County School Board. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Joseph Wiggins, seconded by Commissioner Frank Emory and unanimously carried **THAT** the Board go into Closed Session. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs, seconded by Commissioner Frank Emory and unanimously carried **THAT** the Board go out of Closed Session. Franky Howard presented the settlement agreement received from the School Board. The agreement accepts the offer of an additional 200,000.00 in funding from the County and releases all rights to institute or pursue any challenge to the amended fiscal year 2014-2015 budget allocation. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Joseph Wiggins, seconded by Commissioner Frank Emory and unanimously carried **THAT** the agreement be **APPROVED** as presented.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Franky Howard had no additional reports.

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

*Commissioner Sondra Ipock-Riggs* has received several complaints in reference to mosquito problems in the Long Point area. Mrs. Ipock-Riggs visited the area over the weekend and the area has a severe infestation. The area needs to be treated if possible. Mrs. Ipock-Riggs is very concerned with the drainage issues in the county right now. The tiles are not functioning properly. The State and NCDOT need to be informed. With all the rain in the past two weeks, if we have a hurricane we would flood. Mrs. Ipock-Riggs request there be a letter address to the Governor and NCDOT to inform them of the situation. Mrs. Ipock-Riggs also expressed concerns with a farmer's crops being destroyed by road construction and wants to insure the farmer is reimbursed for the damages. Mrs. Ipock-Riggs expressed she has spent 44 years trying to save and preserve the County. Mrs. Ipock-Riggs would also like School Board members provided with training on the requirements the County have for the fund balance. A printout of the breakdown of the County's fund balance should also be placed in the local paper. Mrs. Ipock-Riggs would also like to point out we continue to give the school money and their employees continue to have increased salaries and benefits. No County employee

received raises this year and many were required to take on additional responsibilities without additional compensation. It is just not fair to our employees.

*Commissioner Zack Koonce* is concerned with the drainage throughout the County. Mr. Koonce would also like any update on the painting at the jail as well as the renovations at the Brock Mill Site. Mr. Howard informed the painting at the jail was almost complete and additional repairs were needed to plaster as well as ceilings in certain place. The exterior painting at the Millhouse has been completed. The roof could not be replaced due to expenses but all leaks were repaired. Mr. Koonce would like to make a motion to send the letter to the Governor and NCDOT.

**MOTION** made by Sondra Ipock-Riggs, seconded by Zack Koonce and unanimously carried **THAT** a letter be drafted to the Governor and NCDOT expressing concerns about the drainage and ditching problems the County is currently having.

*Commissioner Frank Emory* expressed concerns about flooding along a Highway 58. The water was standing and folks could not see to get in and out of their driveways. Something needs to be done. It would be a horrible situation if we were to have another flood.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Walter Robinson expressed concern that citizens have been told the new gym would only be used for school functions and this past weekend there was a large crowd there and no one seemed to know what the event was. Mr. Robinson also expressed concern he is receiving calls to his home and they are meant for the tax office. The individual is leaving detailed information he feels most likely should not be disclosed.

Jerol Bryant inquired to the process being followed to sale tax foreclosure properties.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Joseph Wiggins, seconded by Commissioner Zack Koonce, and unanimously carried **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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Mike Haddock  
Chairman

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Melissa Moore-Freeman  
Clerk to the Board

EXHIBIT A

JONES COUNTY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.  
(NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
105 CHERRY STREET  
TRENTON, N.C. 28585

e-mail: [dani5997@gmail.com](mailto:dani5997@gmail.com)

August 4, 2014

Franky J. Howard  
Jones County Manager &  
Board of Commissioners  
P. O. Box 340  
Trenton, N. C. 28585

Dear Sir:

We, the members of the hereinabove named organization, ask the Jones County Manager, Franky Howard, and the Board of Commissioners to petition the North Carolina State legislation indicating a change to the voting structure [at-large election] in the County of Jones, North Carolina, which is a "disenfranchisement" to deprive of the rights, privileges, powers, and immunities of free citizens, namely, African-Americans, people of color, and all others similarly situated, as of the right to hold office in an at-large election to the office of the Board of Commissioners.

WHEREFORE, the denial, as to said allegations, in consideration for protection that government gives, African-Americans, people of color, and all others similarly situated, the right to participate, equally, in districts [political division made for a specific purpose] as to the office of the Board of Commissioner; when-in-fact, it accomplishes the "disenfranchisement of African-Americans, people of color, and all others similarly situated voters" or compels them, if they vote, to vote for representatives of other races, as to "Constitutional Limitations," [which restrict the legislative in the type of laws which it may enact]] other than African-American, people of color, and than that to which they belong.

The deprivation, as stated hereinabove, of the right of selection is a deprivation of the rights of African-Americans, people of color, and all others similarly situated franchise where the right or privilege of voting, equally, in public elections [such right is guaranteed by 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, Amendments to the U. S. Constitution]; which is, the right to voting equally, in at-large elections for the office of the Board of Commissioners and the installation of districts [N.C.G.S. 153A – 58 – 64].

We wish that the North Carolina Legislators give us, African-Americans, people of color, and all others similarly situated, the power to prosper as equal individual citizens, in the County of Jones, North Carolina.

G.S. 153A -58 OPTIONAL STRUCTURES

STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- (1) The number of members of the Board of Commissioners consist of four [4] members.  
Two [2] White, two [2] African-Americans
- (2) Members shall be elected for two [2] year terms of office. See, G.S. 153A – 58 (2) (a)
- (3) The qualified voters of the entire county shall nominate all candidates for and elect all members of the Board. See, G.S. 153A -58 (3) (b) (c) (d)
- (4) We ask that the County be divided into electoral districts according to the apportionment plan requested required by G.S. 153A – 20
- (5) The Board shall elect a chairman from among its membership to serve a one [1] year term [See, G.S. 153A – 58 (a)].
- (6) Define the electoral districts, if any, and apportion the members among the districts. See, G.S. 153A – 60 (3). G.S. 153A – 62.

In our effort to be the first to cry down injustice, in this instance, in all forms, [especially at-large elections] which is a failure, we ask that amendments be added if needed.

I remain,



Daniel J. Willis  
Chairman

cc: Sen. Harry Brown, Jacksonville, N.C.  
Rep. Pat McElraft, Emerald Isle, N.C.  
Leah Aden, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, NYC  
Sen. Floyd B. McKissick, Jr., Durham, N.C. -  
Legal Aid of North Carolina, New Bern, N.C.  
Joyce M. Mitchell, Greenville, N.C.  
Jones County Board of Elections